

Message Text

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TAGS: PARM, TECH, IAEA

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR TOPICAL U.S./IAEA MEETING ON DEVELOPING
SAFEGUARDS SURVEILLANCE TECHNIQUES

REF: IAEA VIENNA 6074

1. CONSISTENT WITH SECTIONS OF REFTEL DEALING WITH SAFEGUARDS SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS, MISSION RECOMMENDS FOLLOWING PROPOSAL AS A CONCRETE MEANS OF MOVING AHEAD REPIDLY ON A HIGH PRIORITY ARE OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR IAEA SAFEGUARDS. PROPOSAL HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH ROMETSCH AND HAS HIS ENDORSEMENT.

2. BACKGROUND: MUCH CURRENT CONCERN ABOUT EFFECTIVENESS OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS STEMS FROM THE NEED FOR MORE TIMELINESS, I.E., THE CAPABILITY FOR RAPID OR REAL-TIME DETECTION AND REPORTING OF DIVERSION OF SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF SEPARATED PLUTONIUM OR HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM. CONSIDERING THE OBVIOUS BURDEN OF THE ALTERNATIVE (CONTINUOUS ON-SITE PRESENCE OF SAFEGUARDS INSPECTORS), THE USEFULNESS OF SURVEILLANCE DEVICES SHOULD BE FULLY EXPLOITED. USING FUNDS AVAILABLE IN THE U.S. FOR STRENGTHENING IAEA SAFEGUARDS, SOME IMPORTANT TECHNOLOGICAL AREAS (E.G. SELF-REPORTING SEALS, EXTERNALLY MONITORED TV, SECURE DATA TRANSMISSION, TAMPER PROOFING, ETC.) COULD BE EXPLORED AND IDEAS DEVELOPED TO PROVIDE RELIABLE UNCLASSIFIED

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RAPID DETECTION WITH REDUCED NEED FOR ON-SITE INSPECTOR PRESENCE.

3. PROPOSAL: IT IS PROPOSED THAT A MEETING OF UP TO FIVE WORKING DAYS BE HELD IN MID-OCTOBER 1976 ON THIS SUBJECT. THE OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO DISCUSS, DEFINE AND AGREE TO A PROJECT WHICH WOULD RESULT IN DEVELOPMENT BY THE U.S. OF ONE OR MORE READY-TO-USE SURVEILLANCE TECHNIQUES (INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT, TESTING, PROCUREMENT OF HARDWARE, INSTRUCTIONS FOR FIELD USE, ETC.) FOR PROVIDING RAPID DETECTION AND REPORTING OF DIVERSION OF SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF EXPLOSIVE USEABLE NUCLEAR MATERIALS. SUGGESTED PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE A) APPROPRIATE IAEA DEVELOPMENT DIVISION AND OPERATIONS DIVISION PERSONNEL, B) A DESIGNATED U.S. TECHNICAL PROJECT COORDINATOR, C) TWO OR THREE SELECTED TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS FROM U.S. LABORATORIES AND/OR INDUSTRY KNOWLEDGEABLE IN AREAS NOTED IN PARA 2 ABOVE, AND D) MISSION STAFF. SIZE OF ENTIRE GROUP (INCLUDING IAEA AND U.S. PARTICIPANTS) SHOULD NOT BE MORE THAN 8 OR 10. BY THE END OF THE MEETING, MATTERS OF TIMING OF AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR VARIOUS PHASES OF THE PROJECT, METHODS FOR ASSURING ADEQUATE COORDINATION, ETC., WOULD ALSO BE WORKED OUT.

4. PREPARATION: TWO OR THREE WEEKS PRIOR TO MEETING, IAEA SHOULD PROVIDE A THREE TO FIVE PAGE DOCUMENT, SETTING FORTH SITUATIONS, SCENARIOS, PERCEIVED POLITICAL OR LEGAL LIMITATIONS, TECHNIQUES CURRENTLY IN USE OR UNDER DEVELOPMENT, POSSIBILITIES, ETC., IN THE ARE OF SAFEGUARDS SURVEILLANCE MEASURES. THIS WOULD BE PROVIDED TO HELP U.S. TEAM PREPARE FOR MEETING. MISSION WOULD WORK WITH AGENCY IN DEVELOPING THIS PAPER AND WOULD WELCOME PRELIMINARY VIEWS OF INTERESTED WASHINGTON AGENCIES.

5. ROMETSCH SUGGESTED, AND MISSION CONCURS, THAT SAGSI MEMBER BENNETT BE INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT, IN VIEW OF RECENT SAGSI DISCUSSION OF TIMELINESS QUESTION. MANNER OF SUCH INVOLVEMENT IS OPEN AS FAR AS MISSION IS CONCERNED. IT MAY BE SUFFICIENT THAT HE PARTICIPATE IN U.S. PREPARATION FOR PROPOSED MEETING, BE INFORMED OF OUTCOME, AND BE KEPT INFORMED OF PROGRESS.

6. DEVELOPMENT DIVISION DIRECTOR VON BAECKMAN SUGGESTS THAT WE MAY WISH CONSIDER AT SOME STAGE INVOLVING ONE OR MORE OTHER UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNTRIES IN PROJECT TO AVOID APPEARANCE (WHICH VON BAECKMAN FREQUENTLY MENTIONS TO US) THE USG IS DEVELOPING AND PUSHING STRICT SAFEGUARDS MEASURES TO BE APPLIED TO OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH DO NOT WANT THEM. MISSION IS CONCERNED THAT INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS IN THIS PROJECT COULD COMPLICATE AND DELAY ITS CONCLUSION. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO SPONSOR SIMILAR PROJECTS IN OVERALL PROGRAM FOR SUPPORT OF AGENCY SAFEGUARDS.

THESE VARIOUS VIEWPOINTS WILL HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED AS THIS PROJECT, ALONG WITH OTHERS IN OVERALL SUPPORT PROGRAM, PROCEEDS.

7. JUSTIFICATION FOR U.S. SUPPORT ROLE IN THIS TECHNICAL AREA IS THAT IAEA HAS INSUFFICIENT FUNDS AND STAFF TO APPLY TO A RAPID SYSTEMATIC DEVELOPMENT OF THESE NECESSARY AND IMPORTANT TECHNIQUES. ALL ASPECTS OF PROPOSED PROJECT MUST BE THOROUGHLY AND CONTINUOUSLY COORDINATED WITH IAEA TO ASSURE THAT PRODUCTS WILL FILL REAL NEEDS OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS IMPLEMENTATION. THIS WILL REQUIRE FREQUENT VISITS AND OTHER DIRECT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN U.S. DEVELOPERS OF THE SURVEILLANCE TECHNIQUES AND IAEA SAFEGUARDS WORKING LEVEL STAFF.

8. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST IF AGENCY SHOULD PROCEED WITH PLANS FOR PROPOSED MEETING, INCLUDING DATES PREFERRED.

9. SUCH TOPICAL MEETINGS ARE NOT INTENDED TO REPLACE JOINT OVERALL U.S./IAEA SUPPORT PROGRAM PERIODIC REVIEW SUGGESTED PARA 7 REFTEL, WHICH WE CONTINUE TO REGARD AS ESSENTIAL.

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